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Heigh Ho! Off to the Faire!

Yea and verily, our heartie bande of Time Travelers have yet again set the Wayback Machine for Merrie Olde Englande in the reign of Good King Hal! Wilt thou joine us?

In other words, several LSFers have set the date for our annual sojourn to the Maryland Renaissance Festival - Sunday, Sept. 29th. As per usual, we'll meet somewhere out in the mob in front of the Faire's entrance gate by 10:00 AM (at which time, the opening gun is fired). Also as per usual, we'll undoubtedly make a full day of it, what with jousts, eating, shopping, attending the "Shakespeare Scum" performance, *et al.*

The Festival is located in Crownsville, MD - "only 15 minutes from the Beltway, near Annapolis." If you're driving, from the Beltway, take Exit 19A, Rte. 50 East (John Hanson Hwy.) toward Annapolis. Exit Rte. 3 North. Go 2 miles to 2nd light, then turn right onto Rte. 450 East. Travel 6 miles to Crownsville Rd., and turn left. Proceed 1/2 mile to Fair (on the right). Several LSFers are planning to drive, so if you need a ride, call around and see if anyone has room. Yoiks and away!

(P.S. Don't tell Mr. Peabody we've gone joy-riding in the Wayback Machine again! He was really pissed at us last time, when we side-swiped a TARDIS!)

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LSF To Take "Mysterious" Field Trip!

And I'll bet you're wondering just how "mysterious" a field trip can be. Pretty "mysterious," actually, when it entails a trip to see a production of *Ten Little Indians*, Agatha Christie's classic "whodunnit."

That's right, gang, it's time for another sojourn out to The Wayside Theatre at the headwaters of the Shenandoah, in darkest Northern Virginia, to see our own Joe Parra "tread the boards" again.

We've planned on attending the 8:00 PM show on Saturday, October 5th. Tickets cost \$20. You should call the Theatre ASAP and reserve your ticket (1-800-951-1776), because the place fills up fast!

As you may remember, The Wayside Theatre is located 'way out there! It's located on Main Street in Middletown, VA. (Take Rte. 66 West, then Rte. 81 North. On Rte. 81N, take the first exit, then follow the signs to The Wayside Theatre.) It takes about 1 1/2-2 hours to drive there.

Several LSFers are planning on driving; so, if you're interested in a ride, call around to see who's got room. (Plan on leaving by about 6:00 PM - or earlier, if you're making dinner plans in Middletown.) And there just might be a little after-the-show soiree (munchies and chit-chat) at Joe's place, so plan on possibly making a late night of it.

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Political Madness Can Be Fun and Games!

(LSF Hosts Video/Gaming
Party on Nov. 2nd)

Whether it's the machinations of the evil Empire in *The Empire Strikes Back* or the echoing of anti-Communist fear propoganda in *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, science fiction, horror, and fantasy films are loaded with political themes. So, in honor of Election Day, LSF will adapt its "Video Madness" Party idea just a little and have a *theme*-inspired night of videos, food, and fun.

On Saturday afternoon/evening, November 2nd (starting at 3 PM), Jeff and Philip will host a combination "Video Madness and Political Game" Party *and* monthly LSF meeting at their new house in Silver Spring. (NOTE: No "2nd Sunday" meeting in November!)

As usual, attendees will choose the videos to be shown from among those brought to the party - *but* this time the films chosen must adhere to the theme of "Politics." This category includes videos that anyone can justify as having a real political theme, such as *When Worlds Collide* or *Time Cop*. So, leave your "Frankenstein" videos at home, and don't even think about bringing any of the "Freddy" films! Political genre films are what this party is all about.

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Independence Day

a review by
Peter Knapp
and
Philip Wright



Philip: We (Jeff and I) had a good time last night. We really enjoyed *Independence Day*. How did you like it?

Peter: I liked it very much. I also had a good time seeing you two, as it's been a while. Next time I'll bring some cream cheese for the smuggled-in bagels... :)

Philip: Over all, the story was good, but I thought some of it was predictable - plus there were a few holes in the script (such as Jeff Goldblum and Judd Hirsch having no trouble getting out of NYC, while Harvey Fierstien is stuck in traffic).

Peter: That's an understatement. Then again, I had read extensively about the movie beforehand, so I knew a lot about the story going in. The producers intentionally paid homage to countless genre films, so by definition many parts of the movie should have been familiar. They've both stated that they wrote a "disaster movie of the '70's"-style of story, with lots of characters, some of which would die. A disaster sci-fi epic is bound to be predictable. As far as holes, there definitely were a few. Fireballs are preceded by incredible waves of heat. The people and cars in the attacked cities would be melting long before they were engulfed by flame. And that service area in the tunnel that the stripper, her son, and their dog ran into - can you say "toast"?

Philip: Dispite all that, I will applaud some of the acting. I was actually impressed with Will Smith's performance - something you're not likely to hear me say often. And Judd Hirsch was incredible as the comic-relief/foil for Jeff Goldblum (and almost everyone else).

Peter: Ditto. I thought Will Smith was okay in *Six Degrees of Separation*, but he really did a good job in this movie. Rob commented that he thought

Jeff Goldblum and Harvey Fierstien's characters were supposed to be funny together. He didn't think the chemistry worked, and I agree. Chemistry that *did* work was between Judd Hirsch and Jeff Goldblum's characters. Fierstien playing the stereotypical homosexual just got in the way of Goldblum's character; but Hirsch's playing the stereotypical Jewish father complemented Goldblum's character nicely.

Philip: I agree 100% about Jeff and Harvey. In fact, I think Harvey Fierstien was a last-minute addition in hope of covering ALL of the social bases. The special effects, I felt, were excellent, despite the acrid remarks about them by several critics. And I totally disagree with the assessment of one reviewer who thought the ships were "just like every other alien invader craft we've ever seen."

Peter: Especially in the opening. The mother ship was asymmetrical and huge, unlike countless saucer-shaped UFOs.

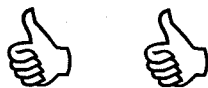
Philip: The twist at the end (an Area 51 saucer helping our heroes) was clever, but a little contrived.

Peter: You'll get no argument from me on this point.

Philip: But over all, I thought the film was well worth the price of admission; and I'd recommend it to anyone, even if he/she isn't able to find a bargain showing. *Independence Day* entertains even the most jaded audience; and you come out of the theater feeling good!

Peter: Much, much better than *Twister* and *Mission Impossible* combined.

Philip and Peter: Two thumbs up!



[Editorial addendum: Except in Japan, apparently. Some panel members at one of the Japanese fandom panels I attended at Worldcon in Anaheim didn't think *ID4* would be receiving rave reviews in Japan. As far as I can remember, no one pursued the subject of why not.]

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"Political" Video/Gaming Party on Nov. 2nd

continued from page 1

Jeff and Philip will have two screens available for the videos - *plus*, at this event they will have the upstairs of their house set up for games. *Junta*, *Diplomacy*, *Risk* - any games that have a political tilt to them will be voted on, just like the videos; and anyone is free to play them upstairs.

As usual, this is a potluck event. Jeff and Philip will provide the main dish. Everyone with last names beginning with A-H should bring salads and side dishes; those with last names beginning with I-P should bring something sweet; those with last names beginning with Q-Z should bring non-alcoholic drinks (diet, regular).

See you there for fun, games, videos, and a good time!

When to Be There

The Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will start at 3:00 PM and the potluck dinner and video/gaming party will start at 4:00 PM. So, try to get there a little before 3:00 PM, especially if there's any last-minute fixin' you need to do on your potluck contribution.

What to Bring

This won't exactly be one of our typical "Video Madness" parties:

(1) Bring along your favorite genre videos (science-fiction, fantasy, horror) - but, remember, they should have a "political" theme to them. (If necessary, be prepared to explain the connection.)

(2) As usual, the party will include a traditional pot-luck pig-out; but this time there are pre-assigned categories (based on your last name) of what food to bring (A-H, salads & side dishes; I-P, sweets; Q-Z, drinks).

(3) Bring along any political-themed games you'd like to play. Attendees will vote on which games they'd like to play.

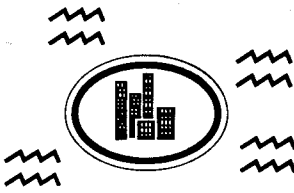
How to Get There

The party will be held at Philip and Jeff's new home in Silver Spring, MD. It's located at 320 Highview Place - a little over a mile east of "downtown

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Escape from L.A. (NYC's Sister City Rte.)

a movie review by Joseph Parra



Teamwork - it can make a large, complex machine operate most efficiently and seem quite effortless. This especially holds true for action movies, especially action *science fiction* movies. In 1981, director John Carpenter and team took us on an *Escape from New York*, in which 1997 sees the five boroughs of New York City as a prison and the President of the U.S. is captured by hoods when Air Force 1 needs to make an unscheduled emergency landing. The Government sends in Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell), a mercenary who is (of course) the best in the business, to rescue the President in true daring-do fashion, with a decidedly cynical tongue in his cheek. A fun film that you either loved or hated - not much room for middle ground here. Personally, I got a big kick out of it; teamwork paid off.

Now it's 17 years later storywise, only 15 years later sequel-wise. L.A. has finally gotten lopped off the continent by a 9.5 on the Richter scale earthquake. It is now a prison facility, in that all dissidents are sent there. Beyond that, it is a nightmarish world controlled by different gangs, the toughest being headed up by a man named Cuervo Jones (George

Corraface), who fancies himself a sort of Che Guevarra. How so? Mainland America is in no better shape than L.A. An ultra-paranoid right-wing monster from Lynchburg, VA (no, not *that* Jerry fellow!) has just been elected President for Life(!) of the United States. His daughter sees that Daddy's not quite right and steals a powerful device and hijacks a flight to L.A. She believes that Jones will be the salvation of the world by leading a revolution onto the mainland.

Enter our anti-hero, Snake Plissken, newly arrested on a weapons-and-morals charge, given a chance by the President (Cliff Robertson) and the U.S. Chief of Police (Stacy Keach) to gain a pardon. All he has to do is go into L.A., get the device, *and* eliminate the daughter. Simple, right? Wrong! But.... To help him make up his mind, he is infected with a deadly virus which will kill him in 10 hours. He meets a wide assortment of characters, including: Steve Buscemi (winner of the Whit Bissell award for managing to appear in every/any genre film currently available); Pam Grier (blaxploitation queen of the '70's, as a transsexual buddy of Russell's with a powerful mob of her own); and Peter Fonda (as, appropri

ately enough, a wasted old hippie who saves Kurt's life on more than one occasion).

Yes, situations with this type of action/sci-fi film are somewhat predictable; but fortunately Carpenter's producer Debra Hill (*Halloween*, *The Fog*, *Escape from New York*) and their crew - including make-up master Rick Baker - have concentrated on character development and (naturally) special effects. The effects were done by Buena Vista Special Effects (that's Disney!). They are sensational!

Characterizations are fun. As is to be expected with this type of material, they are larger than life. Kurt Russell (who also co-wrote the screenplay and co-produces the film) is in fine form and fit as a fiddle as Snake. He makes it difficult to believe 15 years have gone by. Buscemi and Grier deliver nice work, especially Grier with a weird modulated voice! Robertson is scary as the President, and one must remind oneself that this is Cliff (not Pat) Robertson. Keach and Fonda also do fine work and trade on their off-screen personae well. Valeria Colino also contributes a fine cameo performance as an egotist and unwitting victim. Michelle Forbes (as Keach's right-hand woman) is also as nicely slimy as he.

Carpenter's direction is as sharp as ever. With a deft perception of what needs to be seen and what needs to be imagined, he propels us head-on into the chaotic miasma of a world gone insane. The visuals of L.A. are stunning and shocking. All that is familiar about L.A. is villified with several in-jokes that should rib Californians with a slight jolt. Paramount Pictures has provided a lush budget which is used wisely and well. When *Escape from New York* came out in 1981, it was privately financed and worked well within its small budget; but there's nothing like money to spark your imagination and tell your story well. As with its predecessor, *Escape from L.A.* is a love-it-or-leave-it affair. Personally, I love it! Enjoy!!

"Political" Video/Gaming Party on Nov. 2nd

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Silver Spring," just south of the intersection of Colesville Rd. and Franklin (and "just two doors down from" their *previous* Silver Spring home).

Driving: Take Colesville Rd. east from Georgia Ave. ("downtown Silver Spring"). Turn right on Franklin. Take the 3rd right onto Highview Ave. The first cul-de-sac on the right is Highview Place. The house is the brick one with the picket fence in front. (You should park on Highview Ave., because the cul-de-sac is always full of cars.)

Metro: Take the Red Line to the Silver

Spring Metro Station. We'll plan a couple of "shuttle runs" from the Metro station to the party (2:30 PM and 2:45 PM). All you have to do is wait at the "Kiss & Ride" area of the parking lot, and we'll pick you up and take you to the party. (Look for a maroon 1995 Ford Escort station wagon.) If you'd rather walk from the station (or if you miss either of the "shuttles"), it'll take about 30 minutes to walk there. (Just follow the directions re: "Driving" above.)

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Rating:
3 out of a possible 4

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**Washington Science
Fiction Association**
by Peter Knapp

As mentioned a few months ago, Barrett and I attended the premiere party for the Sci-Fi Channel on District Cablevision. At the party, we met a member of the Washington Science Fiction Association (WSFA), the club that produces Disclave. For those that are interested in checking out this long-standing club, I've dug up the following information.

They meet twice a month at the following places and times:

1st Fridays
(8:30 PM until after midnight)
Alexis & Lee Gilliland
(703) 920-6087
4030 8th St. South
Arlington, VA 22204

Directions: Get on Route 50. Take the George Mason Drive exit (exit on right, turn left at light, passing over Rte. 50). Drive south on George Mason Dr. almost half a mile. Turn left at a stop light onto 8th Street. On your right, the first block is a park. The Gillilands' house is the second on the right in the next block.

The Gillilands will nearly always take time to help fans who call with questions about WSFA or conventions.

3rd Fridays
(8:30 PM until after midnight)
Meetings on 3rd Fridays are generally held at "the stately Ginter mansion."
Erica and Karl Ginter
(301) 572-2249
10404 43rd Ave.
Beltsville, MD 20705

Directions: Drive north on Rte. 1 from the Beltway, about a mile. Turn left onto Montgomery Road. Turn left again, just before the blinking red light, onto 43rd Ave. Their house is near the bottom of the slope on the right, just as the road begins to curve sharply to the left. There is usually more parking about 100 yards past their house (around the curve and back up the hill).

September LSF Minutes
(Going, Going, Sold!)
by Rob

With Hurricane Fran a fading memory, the LSF faithful gathered once again for our monthly dose of mischief and mayhem. The first item on the agenda was business. In **Gaylactic Network news**, the Network Publicist (Joe Leonard) has been active with the Network's web page and with a new e-mail list for gay-related genre news. Rumors regarding **Gaylaxicon bids for the next few years** are flying fast and furious. The coalition of "Midwest" groups that (we thought) were contemplating a 1999 bid have apparently decided to bid for hosting a "modified relaxicon Gaylaxicon" in 1998 in Ann Arbor, Michigan - while rumors persist that Boston may bid to host a "relaxicon Gaylaxicon" in 1997 at the same site as this year's con. What this means is: (1) it looks like LSF's bid for Gaylaxicon 1999 has no competition; (2) we should offer any help we can to the other groups on their efforts; and (3) if both of these scaled-down Gaylaxicons happen, then 1999 (ours) will be the 10th Gaylaxicon.

We also discussed the **LSF home page** for a little while. We continue to get an average of about 450 "hits" per month. In an effort to keep interest up, the LSF home page has been redesigned to emphasize new and exciting things on our site - including a listing of all the Lambda Literary Award Nominees and Winners for the genre,

Note: Usually in August, the meeting places are SWITCHED (1st Fri. in MD; 3rd Fri. in VA).

WSFA publishes the "WSFA Journal" more-or-less monthly. Membership dues are presently \$5 PLUS membership in the next Disclave. However, anyone is welcome to attend meetings as a guest. John Pomeranz is the President of WSFA and can be reached at (703) JET-LADY.

an updated "LSF Recommends" reading list, information about *Gayteways*, and more. Upcoming plans include an expanded section of reviews of both movies and books, photos of LSF events, and possibly an "LSF Recommends" viewing list that Philip has offered to put together.

Following that, we moved on to **general chatter** about books, magazines, movies and television shows in the genre. The *Star Trek: Voyager* premiere got mixed reviews, while a tremendous number of new shows and cartoons are set to premiere over the next month. *Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys* and *Superman* both look like winners in the cartoon wars, while *Road Rovers* is awful. Various magazines and stuff were passed around, including lists of this year's current and retro Hugo Award winners, several magazines (*Outré, Mad, Psychotronic Video, and Toon*), flyers for LoneStar Con (Worldcon '97) and Darkovercon '96, and an announcement about Melbourne's Worldcon in 1999.

Then we set up our **schedule of upcoming events**. A group trip to the **Maryland Renaissance Festival** is set for Sunday, September 29th (meeting at the main gate at 10 AM). A trip to see our own **Joe Parra in Ten Little Indians** at the Wayside Theatre (Middletown, VA) is set for Saturday, October 5 (8 PM show). Our **November LSF meeting** will be combined with a gaming and video ("politics-themed") party and will be held at Philip and Jeff's new home in Silver Spring (start time: 3 PM).

Finally, we settled down for the planned auction in support of *Gayteways*, our gay genre fanzine venture (scheduled to begin later this year). The **auction and booksale** featured computer games, videos, books, collectables, and artwork. It was a fabulous event, raising \$130 - which should be enough for *Gayteways* to happen! Big thanks to everyone who brought items for the auction and to everyone who bought items and books.

And that was all. With the final crash of the auction gavel, the meeting was adjourned.

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ERROR! ERROR!

from Ye Olde Editor

Oops! It looks as though a couple of errors slipped into last issue's "Gaylaxicon VII Memories" articles. Unlike Nomad (fortunately), I won't be forced to exterminate Peter and myself for being faulty, carbon-based units. All I need to do is publish this little notice to clear things up:

FROM PETER:

In last month's article about Gaylaxicon, I incorrectly commented that I thought Chris Conran's "kids" were the first under-18 attendees of a Gaylaxicon. As soon as the newsletter was sent out, Loree Cook-Daniels sent me e-mail to remind me that her-and-Marcelle's baby son Kai Ian made quite a stir at the dance at Gaylaxicon V (Rockville, MD, 1994). My apologies for the oversight, Kai and company.

FROM ME (CARL):

In my article about Gaylaxicon VII, I managed to make *two* errors right off the bat while listing the LSF attendees! First, I left off Scott R. from the list of attendees. (Sorry, Scott; I guess I was blinded by your erudition!) Second, I mis-spelled Kendall's name. (It does have an "n" in it, doesn't it, Kendall?) Somebody find me the editor of this rag! I've got a few choice words to say to er, um never mind.

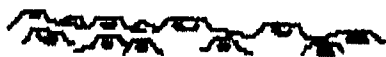
ΛΨΦ

"Doctor Who fiction now accounts for an astonishing 5% of the science fiction book market in the UK."

--- Rebecca Lerene
(Virgin Books)

quoted in issue #242 of
Doctor Who Magazine

[Note: One to three new books
are published every month.]



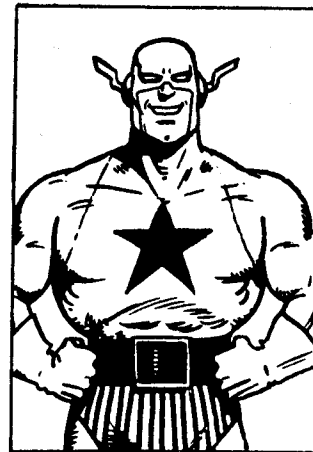
Designing Your Superhero Costume

What should your costume be like?

- Something dark, to strike fear into the hearts of men.
- Something colorful - to enhance your merchandising potential.
- Something you can change in and out of - fast!
- Something bulletproof.
- Something woven from Kevlar, to deflect Ninja death stars.
- Something warm in the winter.
- Something made from muscle-enhancing (and genital-enhancing) skin-tight Spandex.

What should you avoid?

- Too much embroidery - a finished costume (however breathtaking) could take *years!*
- A face mask that doesn't hide your face.
- A face mask you can't see out of.
- A face mask - and nothing else.
- Anything you have to knit yourself.
- Anything that's highly inflammable.
- Anything patched together from lace doilies.
- Anything incorporating a Bullseye motif over the heart.
- Anything made out of horsehair.
- Anything skimpy.
- Anything see-through.
- Anything shocking pink with sequins.
- Anything that scuffs easily or needs dry cleaning.
- Anything that looks like you bought it at K-Mart or Woolworths.
- Anything white (if you operate at night).
- Anything white (if you're called something like "The Black Avenger").
- Anything white if you have aqua powers - because your costume will become transparent when wet and you won't be able to climb out of the water.
- Hoops - they'll make you look fat.
- Corduroy.
- Nylon - you'll get nasty static shocks every time you try to fight Metal Men.
- A costume that's so tight you rip it every time you throw a punch.



- A costume that's so tight they can tell your religion.
- A costume design that requires you to wear your underpants over your tights. (People have been laughing at superheroes for this for over forty years, but the message doesn't seem to sink in.)
- A costume that's really an alien space parasite pretending to be a costume.
- Anything even slightly resembling a saucy French maid's outfit.
- Anything two sizes too big.
- Flares or bell-bottoms.

Actual superhero testimonials:

"Tights, in whatever color you choose, should never be fishnet..."

--Power Lad, Denver, CO

"Don't wear polka-dot; folks won't take you seriously."

--Captain Biloxi, Biloxi, MS

"If you want a cape, keep it short. I tripped over mine and knocked out three teeth..."

--Captain Indestructible,
St. Louis, MO

"Don't stuff your tights with socks. People always know..."

--Mr. Goliath, Salem, OR

excerpted (with minor alterations) from
How to Be A Superhero
by Mark Leigh & Mike Lepine
(NBM Publishing, 1992)

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*** * INFORMATION ABOUT LAMBDA SCI-FI: DC AREA GAYLAXIANS * ***

Lambda Sci-Fi is a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror fan club for Gay people and their friends. Annual membership fees are \$15, for which you will receive this monthly newsletter and a membership directory. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

Meetings are generally held on the second Sunday of each month at a private residence. The next Lambda Sci-Fi meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 13th, at James Crutchfield's apartment: 1414 17th St., NW, Apt. 413 (near Dupont Circle) - 1:30 PM for business meeting; 2:00 PM for social meeting. Please bring some munchies or soft drinks if you can. Hope to see you there!

Lambda Sci-Fi: DC Area Gaylaxians is an affiliate of the Gaylactic Network, an international organization for gay people and their friends who are interested in science-fiction and fantasy.



Con Calendar

by Carl, Peter, and James



Nov. 8-10, 1996 **SCI-CON 18**. Holiday Inn Executive Center (Virginia Beach, VA). Guests of Honor: Larry Elmore, Charles Sheffield, Melissa Benson. Cost: \$20 thru 10/1; \$30 at the door. Make check payable to "Sci-Con" and send to: Sci-Con, P.O. Box 9434, Hampton, VA 23670. For info: call (804) 865-1407, or...
E-mail: scicon@earthlink.net Web page: www.earthlink.net/~scicon

Nov. 22-24, 1996 **PHILCON 1996 (The 60th Anniversary)**. Adam's Mark Hotel (Philadelphia, PA). Principal Speaker: Fred Pohl; Guest Artist: Tom Kidd. Cost: \$35 until 10/15/96; \$40 thereafter. Make check payable to "Philcon '96" and send to: Philcon '96, P.O. Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101.
E-Mail: philcon@netaxs.com World Wide Web: <http://www.netaxs.com/~philcon>

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 1996 **DARKOVER GRAND COUNCIL XIX**. Holiday Inn Select - Baltimore North (Timonium, MD). Guest of Honor: Diana Paxson; Special Guest: Marion Zimmer Bradley (health permitting). Hotel rooms: \$62/night (up to 4 in a room). Cost: \$25 until 11/1/96; \$30 after that. (Membership limited to 600.) Make check payable to "Armida Council" and send to: Armida Council, PO Box 7203, Silver Spring, MD 20907. (A very lesbian/gay/bisexual-friendly con!)

March 28-30, 1997 **BALTICON 31**. Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel. Guest of Honor: Glen Cook; Artist Guests of Honor: Frank Kelly Freas & Laura Brodian Freas. For hotel reservations, call Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel (1-410-752-1100). Membership cost \$35 until 12/31/96; \$35 from 1/1/97 until 2/28/97; "\$\$ more" at the door. Make checks payable to "Balticon 31" and send to: Balticon 31, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203.

May 23-26, 1997 **DISCLAVE 1997**. Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW). Guest of Honor: Patricia Anthony; Artist Guest of Honor: Lissane Lake. Cost: \$25 until 12/31/96; \$30 from 1/1/97 until 4/30/97; \$40 at the door. Make checks payable to "Disclave '97" and send to: Disclave '97 Registration, 9617 Verdict Dr., Vienna, VA 22180. On-line information at: michaelnel@aol.com

May 23-26, 1997 **COSTUME CON 15**. Lord Baltimore Hotel (Baltimore, MD). "Costume lovers rejoice! Four fun-filled days devoted to the art of costume!" Membership: \$50 until 12/1/96 ("will increase" after that). Make checks payable to "Costume Con Fifteen" and send to: CCXV, c/o Rule, 5400 White Mane, Columbia, MD 21045. For more information, e-mail at: CCXV@aol.com

Aug. 5-9, 1998 **BUCCONEER (the 56th World Science Fiction Convention)**. Baltimore Convention Center & surrounding hotels. Guests of Honor: C.J. Cherryh, Stanley Schmidt, Michael Whelan. Attending membership: \$110 for period 10/1/96 thru 9/30/97 (and it goes up after that). Make checks payable to "Bucconeer" and send to: Bucconeer, Post Office Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

E-Mail: baltimore98@access.digex.net Web page: <http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98>